

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /048 W
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O P 271412Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL IBADAN
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2840
AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PGOV NI
SUBJECT: STUDENT PROTESTS LOSE MOMENTUM

REF: IBADAN 480 AND 477, LAGOS 5195

SUMMARY: STUDENT PROTESTS SEEM TO HAVE LOST ANY MOMENTUM THEY
HAD TOWARDS VIOLENCE TODAY IN IBADAN. NO PROTEST ACTIVITY
OBSERVED TODAY AFTER A RATHER FULL DAY YESTERDAY.

1. YESTERDAY, STUDENTS - MOSTLY FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS -
COMMITTED SEVERAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PROPERTY AND
SUCCEEDED IN FRIGHTENING AND ALIENATING MOST OF THE POL-
ULACE. MILGOV JEMIBEWON'S CAR WAS STONED AT THE SECRETARIAT,
BUT STUDENTS EVENTUALLY LOCKED OUT. THE OLUBADAN'S PALACE
WAS STONED AND WINDOWS BROKEN, THOROUGHLY FRIGHTENING THE
OLUBADAN AND HIS ENTOURAGE. SOME OFFICIAL CARS WERE STONED
AND THE POLICE UTILIZED TEAR GAS AND REPORTEDLY RUBBER BULLETS
TO DISPERSE ODD GROUPS OF STUDENTS. ONE WHIFF WENT THROUGH
COSULATE OFFICES WITH USUAL EFFECT. SOME LOOTING WAS REPORTED.
CONTRARY TO NEWS REPORTS THE NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING WAS NOT
DAMAGED.

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2. MARKET WOMEN MEETING YESTERDAY CALLED FOR AN END TO VIOLENCE
BUT SUPPORTED THE STUDENTS IN OPPOSING INCREASED FEES. REAL-
IZATION THAT THE INCREASE IN FEES ARE ATTRIBUTABLE ONLY TO
INCREASE IN PAYMENTS FOR SUBSISTENCE IS HAVING SOME EFFECT
OF ERODING SWPPORT FOR STUDENTS. THE HEAD OF UCH (UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE HOSPITAL) TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT THE MEDICAL STUDENTS

FOR THE FIRST TIME WERE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTING THE PROTEST
AND DID NOT EVEN WANT TO TAKE EXAMS THIS YEAR.

3. THE STEAM APPEARS TO HAVE GONE OUT OF ANY DRIVE TOWARDS
MORE VIOLENCE TODAY AS NO STUDENT PROTEST ACTIVITY HAS BEEN
OBSERVED. MOBILE POLICE ARE OUT OF SIGHT. MARKET AND OTHER
ACTIVITY APPEAR NORMAL. SOME SCHOOLS ARE NOT OPERATING DUE
TO LACK OF STUDENTS, BUT OTHERS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE STATE
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION'S APPEAL TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. GRIEV-
ANCES REMAIN BUT FOR MOMENT THE AUTHORITIES CAN FACE THEM
WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH ESCALATING VIOLENCE.
HOYT

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